

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 02108 232022Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CU-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
SCS-06 /036 W
-----108819 241029Z /11
R 231850Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7007

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, CPRS, PGOV, SCUL, GE, US
SUBJECT: RALPH COLIN AND THE FEININGER PAINTINGS.

REF: BERLIN 1981 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT MARCH 23 AT PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE FEININGER PAINTINGS CASE. I STRESSED THAT (A) EAST GERMAN COURTS HAVE RULED THAT EXECUTOR HAS CLEAR TITLE, (B) IMPORTANCE OF PAINTINGS TO HEIRS FAR EXCEEDS FINANCIAL VALUE AND THEREFORE ISSUE HAS A HIGH EMOTIONAL CONTENT, AND (C) FAILURE TO RESOLVE MATTER COULD BECOME EMBARRASSING IN CONTEXT OF FORTH-COMING DRESDEN EXHIBIT.

2. GRUNERT RECALLED THAT EMBASSY HAD BEEN PRESENTED A NOTE SETTING FORTH THE GDR POSITION. HE NOTED THAT GDR WANTED A GENERAL DISCUSSION ON CULTURAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING DUERER PAINTINGS AND REICHSPOTMUSEUM STAMPS. I NOTED THAT WE HAD INFORMALLY REQUESTED A CLARIFICATION OF GDR NOTE, AND EMPHASIZED THERE SHOULD BE NO LINKAGE BETWEEN FEININGER PAINTINGS AND DUERER AND REICHSPOTMUSEUM STAMP CASES, WHICH WERE OF AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CHARACTER. I REITERATED THAT EXECUTOR HAD TITLE ESTABLISHED BY GDR
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COURTS AND THAT RELEASE OF PAINTINGS WOULD HAVE A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON CLIMATE FOR CONDUCT OF OUR RELATIONS. FAILURE TO RELEASE PROPERTY WOULD CONSTITUTE AN UNFORTUNATE IRRITANT AND AN UNNECESSARY OBSTACLE IN DEVELOPING BILATERAL RELATIONS. GRUNERT SAID FEININGER CASE WAS BEING HANDLED BY ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN OFFICE BUT HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: CULTURAL PROPERTY, TEXT ON MICROFILM ONLY
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Markings:
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